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# GRAND ARMY TACTICS

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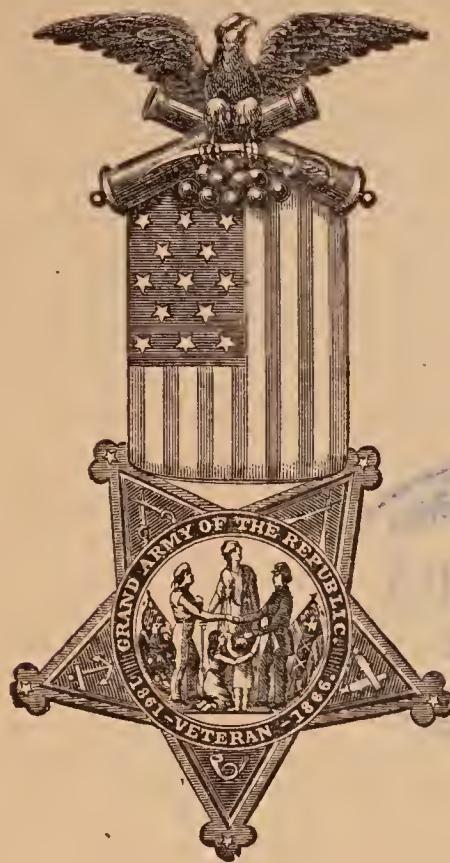
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# GRAND ARMY TACTICS.



A System of Military Drill; Teaching the  
Formation of the Initials of the Name  
and Motto of the Order, and  
Army Corps Badges.

*15.17  
9.5.02*  
BY

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SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

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# \* INTRODUCTION. \*

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These TACTICS have been adopted and are in use by Post 16, Department of Massachusetts, Grand Army of the Republic, and the perfection attained by that Post in the movements, has demonstrated the fact, that very little drill is necessary to perfect Veteran Soldiers in what are termed fancy movements.

As Upton's Tactics are the foundation for these, they are referred to for further instruction, in Company or Battalion movements.

Originality is claimed only for the fancy movements, and that this work may result in a revival of Military spirit and an increased interest in the appearance of Grand Army Posts in public, is the highest aim of

THE AUTHOR.



# \* To Form Company. \*

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Company is formed in single rank, tallest on the right, face to front, and divided into three Platoons of sixteen men in each and counted from right to left in fours.

In the following diagrams each Man is represented by a number.

16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Diagram No. 1. To Form Company.

# To Form Column of Fours.

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At the command “Fours right” “March.” The company will wheel to the right in sections of four, and halt at the command, “Halt.”

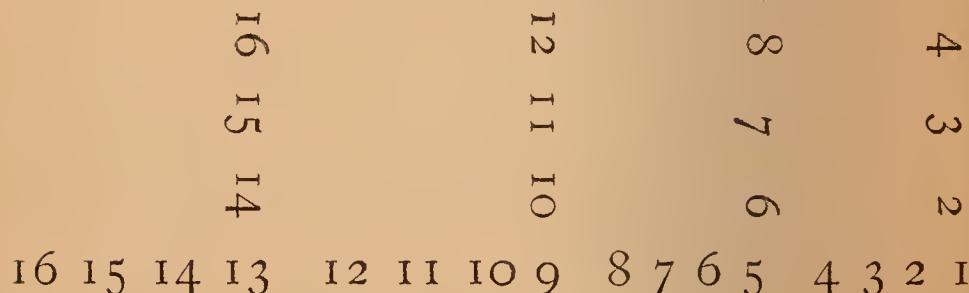


Diagram No. 2. To Form Column of Fours.

To Come to Company  
 Front from Column  
 of Fours.

At the command "Fours left" "March." The company will wheel to the left by fours, and halt in line at the command "Halt." The command will then be given. "Right Dress." "Front."

16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
15				11				7				3			
14					10				6			2			
13						9				5		1			

Diagram No. 3. To Come to Company front from column of Fours.

To Form Sections from  
Columns of Hours on  
March.

At the command "Form sections left oblique" "March." The odd numbered fours will march steady forward. The even numbered fours will oblique to the left, until uncovered, and forward guiding right on the preceding fours.

8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

8 7 6 5

16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9

16 15 14 13

Diagram No. 4. To Form Sections.

# To Form Column of Fours from Sections on March.

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At the command "Right by. Fours,"  
"March." The odd numbered fours  
will march steady forward. The even num-  
bered fours will mark time until uncovered  
and oblique to the right, to their position  
in column of fours.

To Form Platoons from  
 Column of Fours  
 on March.

---

At the command "Platoons left front into line," "March." The first four will keep their position, and the others will take their respective positions on the left of the first four, by left oblique, at double time. Guide right.

16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

8 7 6 5

12 11 10 9

16 15 14 13

Diagram No. 5. To Form Platoons from column of fours on March.

# To Form Initials from Column of Hours on March.

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At the command given by Post Commander "Prepare to form Initials." The Company Commander will give the command, "Platoons left front into line, double time," "March." As soon as the Platoons are formed they will be under the command of their respective chiefs. Post Commander then orders, "Form Initials." The command is then given by Platoon commanders as follows;

- "First Platoon form G," "March."
- "Second Platoon form A," "March."
- "Third Platoon form R," "March."

The letters will then be formed as given in the following explanations and diagrams.

# \* To Form Letter G. \*

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Numbers 8 9 and 10 move eight paces to the front taking double distance to the right and left of number 9, number 7 takes position one pace to the right and rear of number 8 and will be covered in file by the First Sergeant one pace in the rear. Number 11 moves seven paces to the front taking position one pace to the left and rear of number 10, and will be followed in file by numbers 12 13 14 15 and 16 who move right flank, by file left, keeping one pace apart, number 4 5 and 6 oblique to the left and take position one pace to rear of 16, and covering the men at the top of the letter, number 3 oblique to the left and takes position one pace to the right, and in advance of number 4, and covering the First Sergeant, number 2 takes position one pace in advance of and to the left

of number 3, number 1 takes position one pace to the right of number 2.

Each man being careful to keep the required distance to form the letter G.

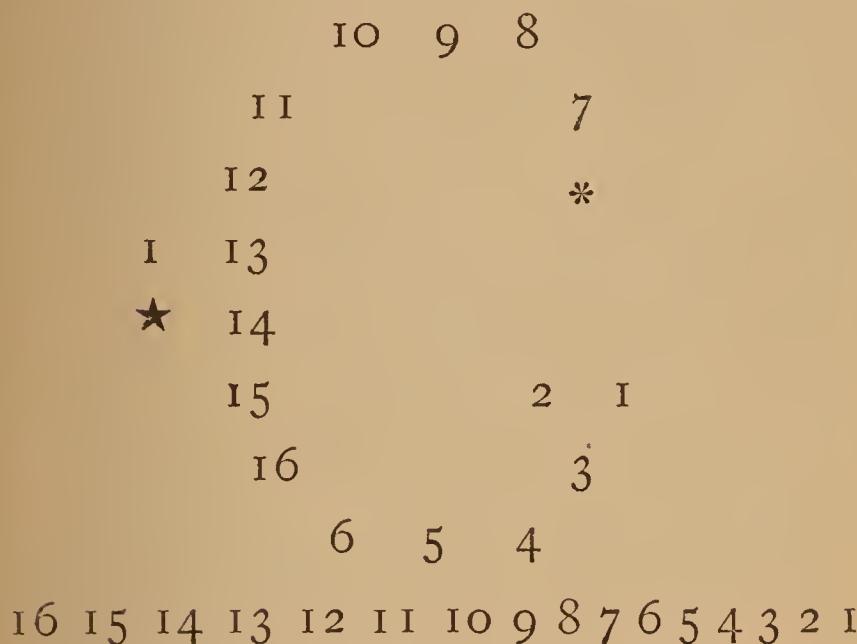


Diagram No. 6. To Form the Letter G.

# \* To Form Letter A. \*

At the command "form A," "March." Numbers 8 9 and 10 will keep steady forward, number 7 will advance until he has gained a point seven paces to the front and center of the Platoon. The men on the right of number 7 will follow him to the front, keeping one pace to the rear of and guiding their left shoulder on the right shoulder of the preceding man, as shown in Diagram number 7. Number 11 will move to the front taking position to the left of number 7 and opposite number 6 and will be followed in order by numbers 12 13 14 15 and 16 each keeping one pace in the rear and guiding their right shoulder on a line with the left of preceding man, numbers 8 9 and 10 will move forward and guide on number 3 and 14 forming the cross of the letter A.

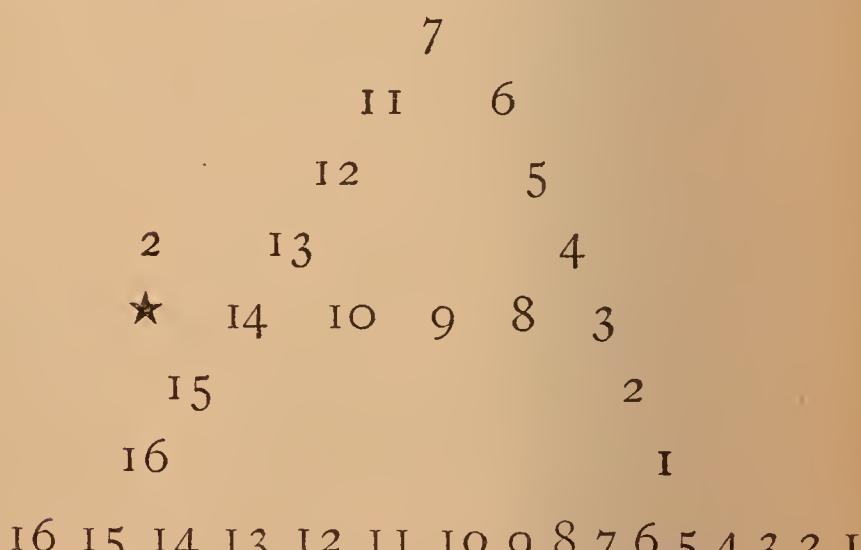


Diagram Number 7. To Form the Letter A.

\* To Form Letter R. \*

Number 10 moves eight paces to the front, followed by numbers 11 12 13 14 15 and 16 who will move right flank by file left, each keeping one pace in the rear of their file leader, numbers 9 and 8 will move forward and guide left on number 13, numbers 7 6 and 5 move to the front by left oblique and take position at the top of the letter guiding on number 10, number 4 takes position one pace to the right and rear of number 5 and opposite number 11, number 3 takes position one pace directly in the rear of number 4, number 2 takes position directly in the rear of number 3 and opposite number 14, number 1 in the the rear of 2 and opposite 15 followed by the Second Sergeant who will be opposite number 16.

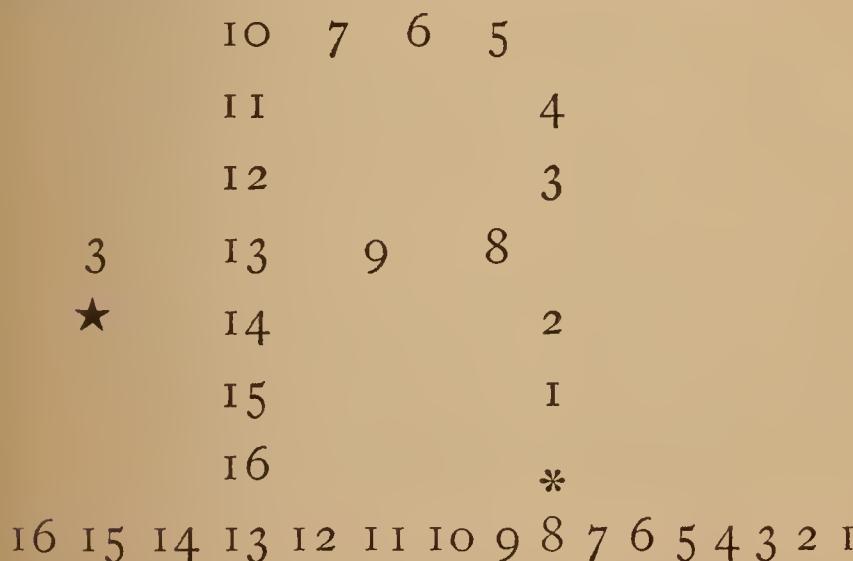


Diagram No. 8. To Form the Letter R.

# To Reduce Initials, Mottos \* and Emblems. \*

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All Letters and Emblems are reduced as follows: at the command given by Post Commander, "Reduce Initials," "Mottos" or "Emblems," as the case may be. The Company Commander orders "Platoons into line," "March," which is repeated by the Chiefs of Platoon to their respective commands. The movements will be made by the men who are directly in front of their original position in the Platoon, marking time until they obtain platoon distance. The others will gain their position by obliqueing to the right or left, as the case may be and shortening step until they are in line when the command will be given "Forward Guide left," "March."

Form Motto from  
Column of Platoons  
on March.

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The command is given by Post Commander "Form Motto." Platoon Commanders then order:

"First Platoon form F," "March."

"Second Platoon form C," "March."

"Third Platoon form L," "March."

The letters will then be formed as given in the following explanations and diagrams.

\* To Form Letter F. \*

Number 9 will move eight paces to the front and center, followed in order by numbers 10 11 12 13 14 15 and 16, who will make a right flank by file left, to a position one pace directly in the rear of the preceding man, numbers 8 7 and 6 will move forward five paces and guide on number 12, numbers 5 4 3 2 and 1 will move to the front, oblique to the left and take position at the top of the letter guiding on number 9, the First Sergeant will place himself one pace in the rear of number 1.

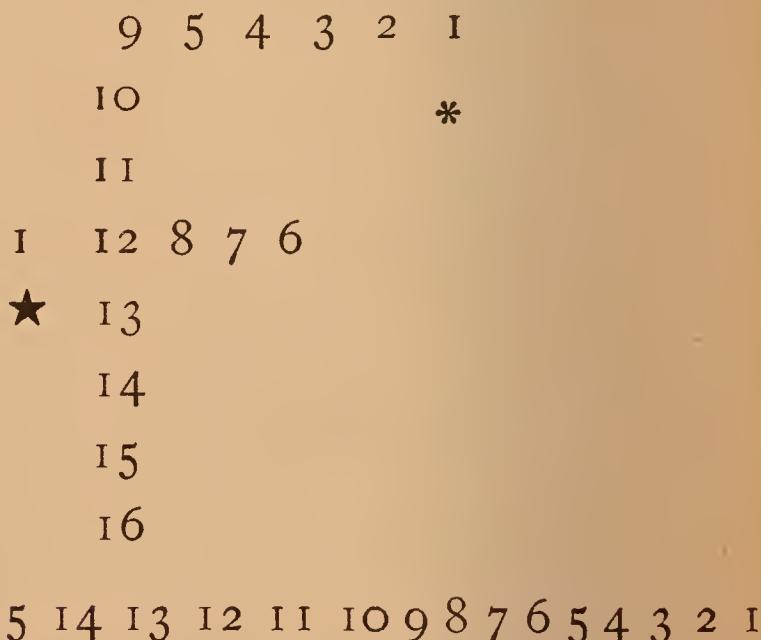


Diagram No. 9. To Form the Letter F.

# \* To Form Letter C. \*

Numbers 8 9 and 10 will move eight paces to the front separating to double distance, number 11 moves seven paces to the front, taking position one pace to the left and rear of number 10, and will be followed by numbers 12 13 14 15 and 16, who will make a right flank by file left, and form in single file one pace apart, number 7 takes position one pace to the right and rear of number 8 and opposite number 11, number 6 one pace directly in the rear of number 7, numbers 3 4 and 5 oblique to the left and takes position one pace in the rear of number 16 and covering the men at the top of the letter. Number 1 and 2 place themselves in single file on a line with number 6 and opposite 15 and 16.

10    9    8

11                      7

12                      6

2                      13

★                      14

15                      1

16                      2

5    4    3

16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Diagram Number 10. To Form the Letter C.

# \* To Form Letter L. \*

Number 8 will advance nine paces to the front of the line, obliqueing one file to the left, number 9 will move directly to the front taking position one pace in the rear of number 8 and will be followed by numbers 10 11 12 13 14 15 and 16, each keeping one pace directly in the rear of their leader, numbers 7 6 5 4 3 2 and 1 will oblique to the left and guide on number 16. The Second Sergeant placing himself in front of number 1.

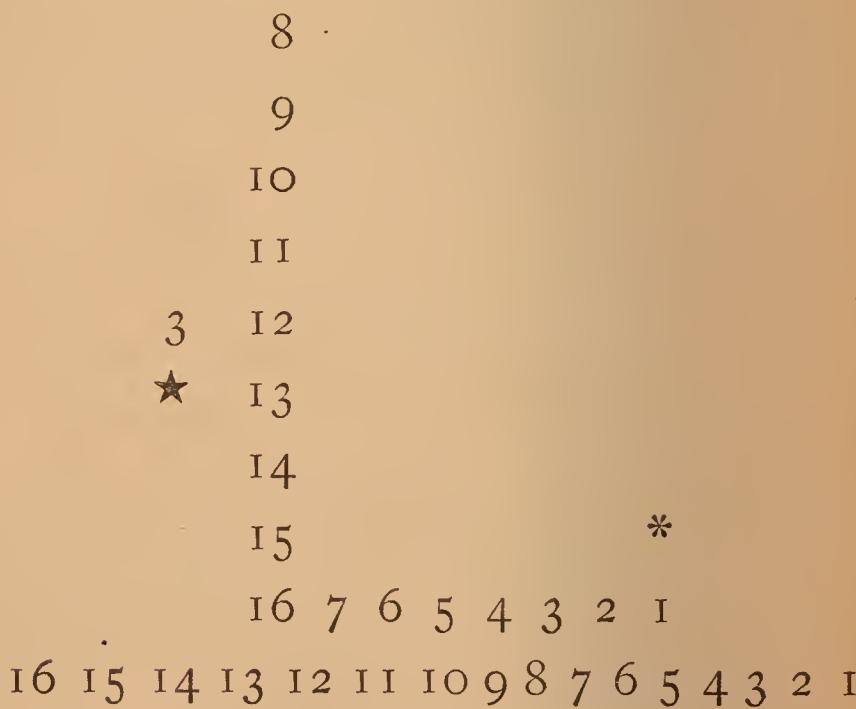


Diagram Number 11. To Form the Letter L.

To Form Emblems from  
Column of Platoons  
on March.

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The command is given by the Post Commander "Form Emblems." the order is then given by Chiefs of Platoons to their respective commands:

"First Platoon form Square," "March."

"Second Platoon form Cross," "March."

"Third Platoon form Triangle," "March.,,

The Emblems will be formed as given in the following explanations and diagrams.

\* To Form Square. \*

---

Numbers 7 8 9 and 10 move forward obliqueing to the right and left until they are one pace apart, numbers 6 5 4 and 3 make a left flank by file, right movement to the rear of number 7 in single file, one pace apart, numbers 11 12 13 and 14 move right flank by file left, to the rear of number 10 in single file one pace apart numbers 1 2 15 and 16 oblique toward the center and form the rear of the Square.

10	9	8	7
11			6
12			5
13			4
14			3
16	15	2	1
16	15	14	13
12	11	10	9
8	7	6	5
4	3	2	1

Diagram No. 12. To Form Square.

# To Form Cross.

Number 8 will move eight paces to the front and center of the line, followed by numbers 7 6 and 5 who will take position in the rear of number 8, one pace apart and in single file, number 9 will take position one pace in the rear of number 5 followed by numbers 10 11 and 12, who will form one pace apart in single file, numbers 4 3 2 and 1 will move to the front by left, oblique and guide on the space between numbers 5 and 9, numbers 13 14 15 and 16 will move to the front by right, oblique and guide on the space between numbers 5 and 9, forming the Cross.

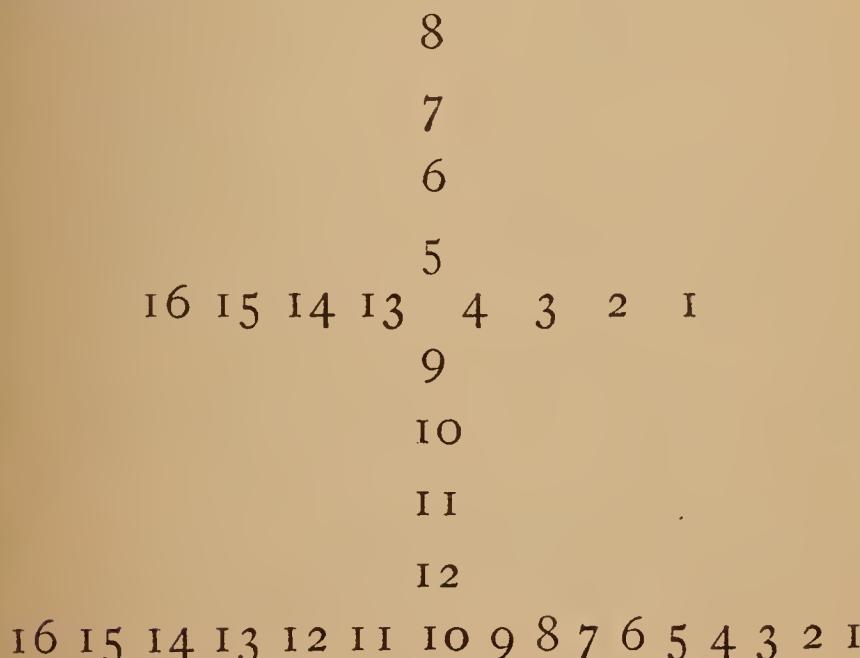


Diagram No. 13. To Form Cross.

## \* To Form Triangle. \*

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Number 9 moves eight paces to the front and will be followed by numbers 8 7 6 and 5, each keeping one pace in the rear and guiding their left shoulder on the right shoulder of the preceeding man, number 10 takes position one pace to the rear of number 9 and will be followed by numbers 11 12 and 13 each keeping one pace in the rear and guiding their right shoulder on the left shoulder of the man in advance, numbers 1 2 3 and 4 will oblique to the left and form across the rear, keeping one pace apart, number 1 being one pace in the rear and guiding his left shoulder on the right shoulder of number 5, numbers 14 15 and 16 will oblique to the right and guide on number 4 keeping one pace apart, number 16 being one pace in the rear, and guiding

his right shoulder on the left shoulder of number 13.

Each man being particular to keep the required distance to form a perfect triangle.

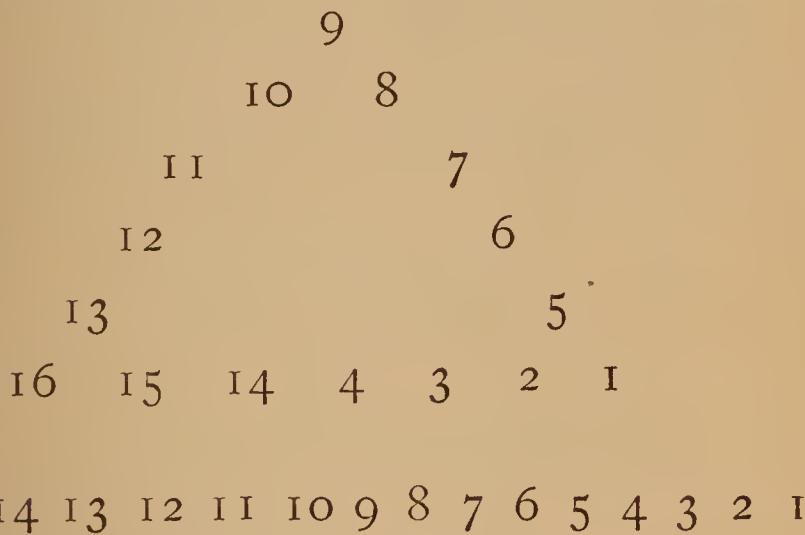


Diagram No. 15. To Form Triangle.

NOTE—To enlarge the Triangle, place number 4 to the right and rear of number 5, and number 14 to the left and rear of number 13, leaving numbers 1 2 3 15 and 16 across the rear.

To Form Corps from  
Column of Platoons  
on March.

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The Post Commander will give the order  
“Form Corps.” The Chiefs of Platoons  
will give the order to their respective com-  
mands:

“First Platoon form Diamond,” “March.”

“Second Platoon form Anchor,” “March.”

“Third Platoon form Crescent,” “March.”

The Corps will be formed as follows.

## \* To Form Diamond. \*

---

The formation will be made on number 9 who remains on the line, number 4 will move nine paces to the front and center, followed by numbers 3 2 and 1 who will keep one pace apart, guiding their left shoulders in line with the right of the man in front, number 5 will take position one pace to the rear and to the right of number 1, keeping his left shoulder in line with the right of the man in front and will be followed by numbers 6 7 and 8, each keeping to the left, and one pace to the rear of the man in front guiding their right shoulders on his left. Number 14 will take position to the left and one pace to the rear of number 4, and will be followed by numbers 15 16 and 13, each keeping to the left and one pace to the rear and guiding their right shoulders

on the left of the man in front, number 13 will be followed by numbers 12 11 and 10 who will each keep to the right, and one pace to the rear and guide their left shoulder on the right of the man in front, thus forming a Diamond.

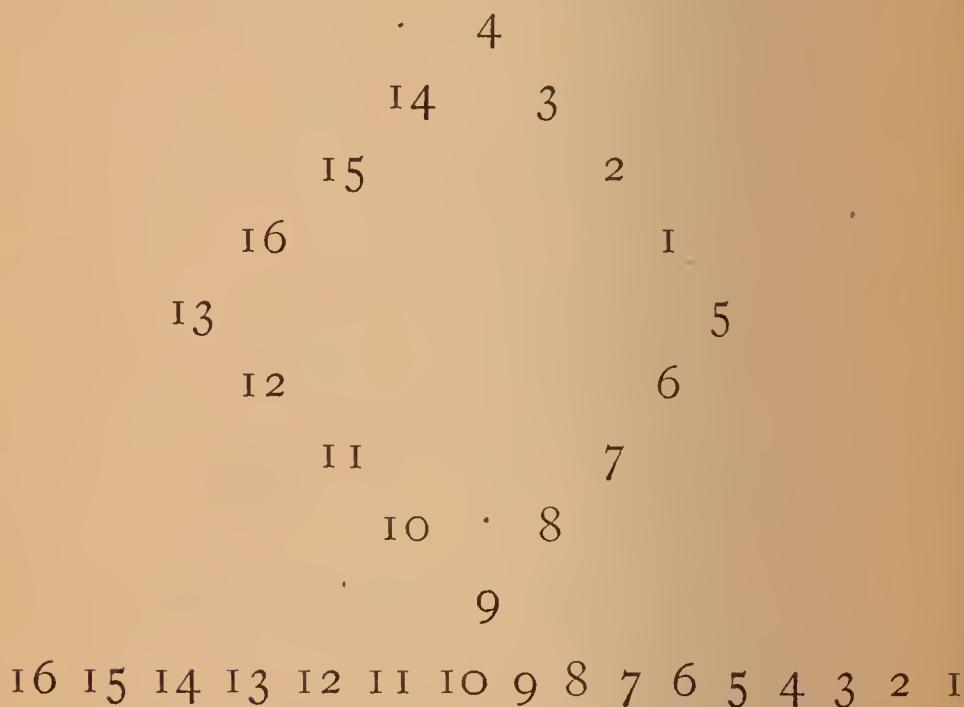


Diagram Number 16. To Form Diamond.

\* *To Form Anchor.* \*

Number 9 will advance six paces to the front of the line, followed by numbers 10 11 8 7 and 6, numbers 2 and 1 will move to front by left oblique and guide on number 9, numbers 15 and 16 will move to the front by right oblique and guide on number 9, number 5 will take position one pace to the right and in advance of number 6, number 4 one pace to the right and in advance of number 5, number 3 one pace to the right and in advance of number 4, number 12 will take position one pace to the left and in advance of number 6, number 13 one pace to the left and in advance of number 12 and number 14 one pace to the left and in advance of number 13, thus forming an Anchor.

16 15 9 2 1

10

11

8

14 7 3  
13 6 4  
12 5

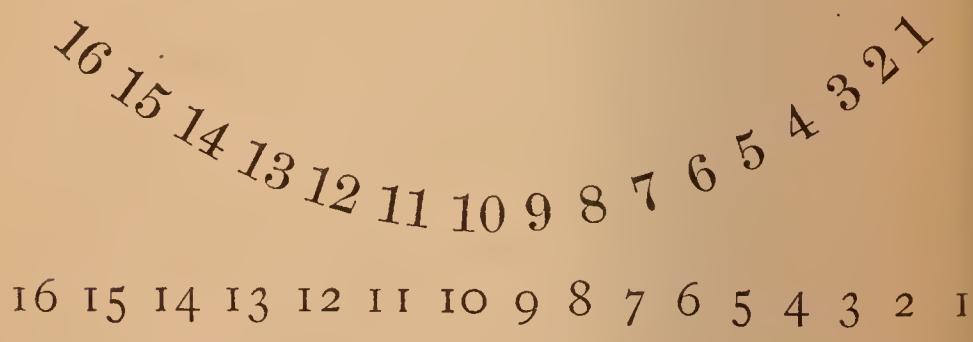
16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Diagram No. 17. To Form Anchor.

\* To Form Crescent. \*

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Numbers 8 and 9 will remain on the line, numbers 7 and 10 will move slightly to the front, number 6 will advance one pace, number 5 two paces, number 4 three paces, number 3 four paces, number 2 five paces, and number 1 six paces to the front of the line, each keeping one pace in advance of and to the right of the man on their left. Number 11 will advance one pace, number 12 two paces, number 13 three paces, number 14 four paces, number 15 five paces, and number 16 six paces to the front of the line, each keeping one pace in advance of and to the left of the man on their right, forming a Crescent. The men in the rear of numbers 1 and 16 guiding their shoulders in line with opposite shoulders of the men in advance.



NOTE—The commands “Form Initials,” “Form Motto,” etc., are preparatory and the commander should wait for the Chiefs of Platoon to give the order “Form G,” “Form A,” “Form R,” etc., when he should give the order “March,” which should be promptly repeated by Platoon Commanders, and the movements executed by all the Platoons at the same time.

Many other Corps Badges may be formed in the same manner as those for which diagrams are given.

Remembering always to make your formations from the center of the Platoon or Company, in order that the figures may be easily reduced by the center files marking time, and those on the right and left regaining their positions by short steps and oblique.

Remember that practice makes perfect and constant drill will make perfect movements.









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